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ROSE MOFFORD

GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMARKS BY GOVERNOR ROSE MOFFORD
MLK DAY RALLY - BOLIN PLAZA
JANUARY 21, 1991

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF A GREAT AMERICAN: DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR.

DOCTOR KING WAS MOVED BY HIS SENSE OF JUSTICE, HIS SENSE OF COMMITMENT TO A CAUSE HE KNEW WAS RIGHT.

SO ARE WE. WE WILL HAVE A MARTIN LUTHER KING/CIVIL RIGHTS DAY IN ARIZONA. WE ARE COMMITTED TO IT. IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

IT IS RIGHT, NOT BECAUSE OF THE SUPER BOWL. IT IS RIGHT, NOT BECAUSE IT WILL FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BOOST OUR CONVENTION AND MEETING TRADE.

IT IS RIGHT BECAUSE IT TELLS ALL OF OUR PEOPLE -- IT REAFFIRMS OUR HEARTFELT CREED -- THAT ALL MEN AND WOMEN ARE CREATED EQUAL AND ENTITLED TO ENJOY EQUALLY THE FRUITS OF OUR GREAT SOCIETY.

THIS STATE WILL LEAD THE COUNTRY WHEN IT BECOMES THE FIRST STATE IN THIS GREAT NATION TO ESTABLISH A MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY BY A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE. WE WILL DO IT WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE WITH ONE CLEAR CHOICE -- NOT WITH A CONFUSION OF ISSUES AS WE HAD LAST NOVEMBER.

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IN MY STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS LAST WEEK, I PROPOSED THAT ARIZONA ENACT THE FEDERAL MODEL WHICH COMBINES TWO SEPARATE STATE HOLIDAYS FOR TWO GREAT PRESIDENTS -- ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND GEORGE WASHINGTON -- INTO ONE HOLIDAY. WE CAN THEN HAVE THE MARTIN LUTHER KING/CIVIL RIGHTS HOLIDAY ON THE THIRD MONDAY IN JANUARY WITHOUT ADDING AN ADDITIONAL STATE HOLIDAY.

WE WILL THEN ASK THE PEOPLE OF ARIZONA TO VOTE ON THIS PLAN IN THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION.

WE CANNOT, WE WILL NOT GIVE UP THIS STRUGGLE. ENACTING THE HOLIDAY IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. I AM COMMITTED TO ITS PASSAGE. I PLEDGE ALL OF MY ENERGY TO WORK TOWARD THAT GOAL AS LONG AS I SERVE AS YOUR GOVERNOR...AND BEYOND THAT TIME IF NECESSARY.

LET'S JUST DO IT.

TODAY I HAVE SIGNED A PROCLAMATION REGARDING DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR. LET ME READ IT TO YOU.

(READ PROCLAMATION)

THIS TREMENDOUS OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING WE SEE HERE TODAY IN THE CAPITAL OF ARIZONA IS HEARTWARMING.

I AM PROUD OF YOU. PROUD OF OUR STATE TODAY.

BUT MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. LET'S JUST DO IT. WE MUST DO IT.